Abigail Williams

Age: 16-17

* Sensual, unscrupulous and determined.
* Abigail is smart, wily, a good liar, and vindictive when crossed.
* She convinces the other girls to dance in the dark forest and create love charms (a sinful act by puritan standards).
* Abigail attempts to cause the death of Elizabeth Proctor in an attempt to win back John Proctor
* She feigns demonic possession, luring the rest of the girls to behave the same way.
* She plants evidence of witchcraft in Elizabeth Proctor’s home, hoping to send her to the gallows.
* She manipulates the judges and denies having a relationship with Proctor.
* Orphaned- “I saw Indians smash my dear parents heads on the pillow next to mine” Pg 27- Possible justification for her evil actions.
* “ The witch hunt was a perverse manifestation of the panic which in among all classes when the balance began to urn towards greater individual freedom.”

Abigail is the personification of such individual freedoms. The events of the play are a direct result of this individuality

* Rivalry between Elizabeth Proctor and Abigail- Elizabeth “blackens” Abigail’s name in town so Abigail can not get a job.

“she hates me, Uncle, she must for I would not be her slave. It’s a woman, a lying cold sniveling woman and I would not work for such a woman.” Pg 20

* Manipulates the entire society- Plays on the weakness of the theocracy.

POWER HUNGRY

Abigail gets ‘drunk’ on her new found power and loses sight of her original goal (replacing Elizabeth Proctor)

In a society where children are ‘seen not heard’ Abigail finds a way to control them all.

* Controls the other girls- they are all scared of her

“ Let either of you breathe a word about the other things and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you.” Pg 26 To Marry Warren and Betty Parris

* In the end Abigail steals Reverend Parris’ life savings and runs away, never to be heard from again. Disproving her entire story and thus revealing to the other characters the fruitlessness of the entire episode and the lives pointlessly sacrificed.

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| Quote | What this says about belonging |
| “The with hunt was a perverse manifestation of the panic which set in among all classes when the balance began to turn towards greater individual freedom.” Pg 16 | Abigail is the personification of such individual freedoms. The events of the play are a direct result of this individuality |
| “She hates me, uncle, she must for I would not be her slave. It is a bitter a woman, a cold sniveling woman and I will not work for such a woman.” Pg 20 | Abigail feels excluded by the rest of the community and blames Elizabeth of this. |
| “she is blackening my name in the village! She is telling lies about me! And she is a cold, sniveling woman, and you bend to her! Let her turn you like a-” | Abigail feels excluded by the rest of the community and blames Elizabeth of this. |
| “Strikingly beautiful girl, an orphan, with an endless capacity for dissembling.” Pg 18 | An early insight into Abigail’s character. |
| “I saw Indians smash my dear parents heads on the pillow next to mine” Pg 27 | Possible justification of Abigail’s evil actions |
| “ Let either of you breath a word about the other things and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you.” Pg 26 | Demonstrates her power over the other girls |
| “ I saw Goody Bibber with the devil” pg 50 | An example of Abigail’s manipulative, lying nature. |
| “I have seen some reddish work done at night and I can make you wish you never seen the sun go down” pg 27 | Audience first insight into the darker aspects of Abigail’s character, audience begins to realize the complexities of her persona. |
| “I know you John, I know you. [*she is weeping].*  I cannot sleep for dreamin’; I cannot dream but I wake and walk about the house as though I ‘d find you coming through some door.” | Stimulus for Abigail’s actions- unrequited love. |